

**Amendments to the Specification:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) An electrode plate unit comprising

a group of electrode plates in which a plurality of positive electrode plates and a plurality of negative electrode plates are laminated alternately via separators, and

a collector plate connected to one side face of the group of electrode plates by a plurality of welding portions,

wherein ~~the~~ an interval between the welding portions ~~in the connection portion between~~ connecting the collector plate and the group of electrode plates is set to be narrower in ~~the~~ a region in which the density of electric current collected by the collector plate is higher.

10. (Currently Amended) The electrode plate unit according to claim 9, wherein the collector plate is disposed with one end portion protruded from the group of electrode plates, and the welding portion is formed so that the intervals between the welding portions are narrower in a region closer to the ~~edge~~ end portion of the collector plate being protruded from the group of the electrode plates.

11. (Currently Amended) The electrode plate unit according to claim 9, wherein the ~~welding portion has~~ portions have a linear shape along the direction in which the electrode plates are laminated.

12. (Currently Amended) The electrode plate unit according to claim 9, wherein a brazing filler metal is disposed between the collector plate and the group of electrode plates in the welding portions.

13-18. (Cancelled)